

Most true but dreadful

A C C O U N T FROM SHORE-DITCH,

Or a full and true

R E L A T I O N How one John Thomson

A Hemp-dresser, and an Inhabitant of the Place before mentioned, being at work on *Tuesday* the 18th of this instant *May* in the Great Tempest was strook for dead, with the Thunder and Lightning, his Hat being pierced thorough, the Hair singed off his head and breast, his Flesh most miserably scorched.

With a Relation how two Youths who were on the other side of the River, at the same time, were beaten down by the Lightning, and scorched with the same Lightning.

As likewise many other Circumstances of its dread Effects, Attested under the hands

Of Good Witnesses,

{ *John Thomson*, the party agrieved,
{ *Mr. Gratian Bale* Chyrurgion.
{ *Robert Lawer* who took him up.

And if any person is desirous to be farther satisfied, they may make an enquiry in the Parish aforesaid, and have the Testimony of several good sufficient Housekeepers who came to visit him in the time of his Extremity.

With an Account of a strange and prodigious storm of Hail, which happened in and about *London*, on *Tuesday* the 18th of this instant *May*, wherein there fell some Hailstones big as Pullets Eggs, and others five, six, seven and nine inches in Compass.

Likewise a Relation of a terrible Tempest in *Oxfordshire* which burnt down a great large Barn which had several Beys in it full of Corn, and all consumed.

THE Wise and Omnipotent God who made this Glorious Fabrick of the World, and separated all the jarring Elements from a confused heap or Chaos into the distant places that his Wisdome had assigned; thereby to make a settled Peace and Concord in the Universe, commanded Fire, as being

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RELATION How one John Thomson

A Hemp-dresser, and an Inhabitant of the Place before mentioned, being at work on *Tuesday* the 18th of this instant *May* in the Great Tempest was strook for dead, with the Thunder and Lightning, his Hat being pierced thorow, the Hair singed off his head and breast, his Flesh most miserably scorched.

With a Relation how two Youths who were on the other side of the Partition, &c. to the same place were beaten that very time and scorched with the same Lightning.

As likewise many other Circumstances of its dread Effects, Attested under the hands

Of Good Witnesses,

John Thomson, the party agrieved,
Mr. Gratian Bale Chyrurgion,
Robert Larver who took him up.

And if any person is desirous to be farther satisfied, they may make an enquiry in the Parish aforesaid, and have the Testimony of several good sufficient Housekeepers who came to visit him in the time of his Extremity.

With an Account of a strange and prodigious storm of Hail, which happened in and about *London*, on *Tuesday* the 18th of this instant *May*, wherein there fell some *Hailstones* big as Pullets Eggs, and others five, six, seven and nine inches in Compass.

Likewise a Relation of a terrible Tempest in *Oxfordshire* which burnt down a great large Barn which had several Beys in it full of Corn, and all consumed.

THE Wise and Omnipotent God who made this Glorious Fabrick of the World, and separated all the jarring Elements from a confused heap or Chaos into the distant places that his Wisdome had assigned; thereby to make a settled Peace and Concord in the Universe, commanded Fire, as being

more light and subtil than the rest to mount aloft, and place
itself in the supreamest Region: from whence since the Creati-
on; has loud-mouth'd Thunders and swift Lightnings strayed;
for hot exhalations by the Suns Attractive Rayes being drawn
from Earth ascend; but proving too gross and humid to joyn
with that pure Element, they find a quick Repulse and so forced
headlong down to Earth again; but meeting oft with oppositi-
ons in the Ayry Regions by reason of moist thick Clouds, the
plunging Fires with horrid noise roul in the waterry Fleeces of
the Skies, till at last breaking thorow, dart their swift Flames
from East to West, whilst that Body of fire with irresistable
Force and impetuous Violence breaks and rends in pieccs solid
Oaks, Iron, Steel, or Rocks of Adament; wounds or kills what
e're aliue it happens on. For the former of which we have an
ample President of its dread effects to make known unto the
World which happened in the last great Thunder-storm on *Tues-*
day the 18 of this instant *May*, the which was so terrible that
Natures self did seem to groan, as if the whole Elements were
huddling themselves once more to Chaos, as all who were not
drowned in perpetual sloath may testify with fear and reverence
unto the great Creator of the Universe. The sad Relation of
which is as followeth. *O. Tuesday* the 18th of *May* 1708
about 8 in the morning, *John Thom*, by Trade a Hemp-dresser, being
about that honest employment for the support and maintainance
of himself and Family in a workhouse not far from his dwelling
and hearing the bellowing Thunders rend the Clouds o're his
Head, began to be in some Consternation, in reflecting upon the
words of the *Psalmist*, where it is said, *The Lord thundred from*
Heaven, and the most highest uttered his Voice, &c. when loe the
winged Fire broke from a yielding Cloud, and with swift moti-
on entring at the window of the Shop, struck him to the Ground
with such a force as if a Cannon had been discharged against him;
where he for sometime lay for dead, not being able to relieve
himself by Speech or motion, till at last by the crying out of his
Son, a young Youth, whom he had placed behind the Dore, be-
ing fearful of the Lightning, his Wife with several Neighbours
came running in, who finding him senseless, on the Floor, stood
amaz'd at the sad and dismal Accident, till by the Sulpherous
smell, and Brimstonelike fume, that scented all the place, began
to think the Truth of what had happened, and taking up the life-
less Corps (as they supposed) found the Lightning had caused
the suddain harm; but having raised him, he began by Degrees



to Breath, but long it was ere he recovered Sence, many of those that came to behold the woful spectacle, by reason of the horrible smell of Brimstone, that the place contained would not come near him, but he being by some kind *Samaritan* conducted home, he was by an able Chyrurgeon after his being strip searched, who found as followeth, *viz.* That the Thunder fire had struck directly on his Head, and entering through the Crown of his Hat, making there a great hole, and singeing his Hair, on the right side and passing thence did the like upon his Breast, running directly to his Navel: scorching his Heed and leaving a long streak of parched flesh and skin from the Throat to the middle of his Belly, and the like on his right Hip about four Inches long and three Inches broad.

When he felt he had a handful of Hemp, that he was Working upon in his Hand which he held fast, when his Wife and one Robert *Laker*, with several others came to his assistance: after much Rubbing and taking of several reviving Cordials, He came to himself, but yer so stupid that he knew not what had happened to him, till he was informed by the People there present: but crying out lamentably that *He was on fire in his Bowels*, and that it would consume him, desiring that he might have something to allay the scorching heat his Inwards contained: for a considerable time he was deprived of the use of his Limbs, not being able to stir them: but after several applications proper in that Case by an experienced Chyrurgion, they were brought to their former Motions and Office: the Thunder smell or Sulphurous scent, was so strong upon all parts of his Cloaths and Body; as also the place where this Dread hap befel, that in a whole day, it could not be extinguished: as likewise a certain unusual heat overspread him, as if a glowing fire within had flamed through every part: Many hundreds from the adjacent place have been to see him, and deplore his sad Condition: for sure it must be dreadful indeed, and greatly to be wondered, *thus to crush poor Mortals here* *for, no doubt it is to* *as all sensible that he is a* God at hand, as well as a far off, and that the ends of the Earth are his and all that dwell in them, &c. In two days space the Internal heat left him, so that it is thought through the mercys of a never failing God, He may recover his former Health, and live to render Praises and Thansgiving, for his so Miraculous and Wonderful deliverance, and near escape from Death. Then how have we need to prepare our selves for our dissolution and entry upon a vast Eternity, for none are sure how many Moments they can count of Life, or how few Sands their fatal Glas has yet to run, various are the Pathes that lead to Death, beset with Snares on either hand, and when we think we tread the most secure, a sudden gust of Fate comes on, and waits us to Eternity, and then all time for Preparation fails: therefore while it is to day, let all so Live as when Death comes, his Terrours may be turned into Smils, and we may look upon his Ghastly Face with Joy, as the only guide to Usher us into eternal Bliss.

But farther to our purpose, two young Lads being on the other side of the Work-house where this Lightning came, and just coming down a pair of Stairs, there being only a slight Partition between, the Lightning burst in, and threw them to the Ground, Burning one side of one of their Wigs, and through Providence passed away, without doing them any further harm, So that all may see the its admirable effects, and plainly discern the restraining Arm of the Almighty: Who can say to those raped Flames, as to the Raging Seas, this is your bounds, hitherto shall you pass, and no farther.

Not long after this sad accident befel, and the prodigious gusts of Thunder and Lightning was overpast, but again dark Clouds from the South Western Skies arose, and driven before the Winds came on a pace with their sable Vels shrouding the Suns bright Face, when loe, an unexpected Storm of Hail descended, with such impetuous violence, and with such magnitude as might amaze Mankind, the like not being seen in *England* before, so swift and sudden that many

many people were surpris'd by it, in the street and fields, and before they could get shelter, had not only their Heads bro'k Faces cut, to pelted that they were obliged to keep their Beds for a day or two after, many thousand Windows being broke and shat'ered by the Hail-stones, as likewise Tiles and Slates from Houses, almost in every Street, so that the damage sustained in and about this City of London is uncountable, and yet more dreadful in the Countries Westward, where it fell before it came to us, for in many fields the Corn lyes cut in peices as if mowed, young Plants and Trees broaken and destroyed, Birds and Beast lamed and killed without number: and had not that God whose goodness never fails been pleased to put a Period to its fury and falling force, tis greatly thought it might have layed wast many Fields: So that the painful Husbandman in Vain might have expected the fruits of his Industry: But the Almighty in the midst of judgment remembered Mercy, and forgot not his ancient Loving kindness to this Land: many of the Hail stones being measured were found to be no less then nine Inches in Compass and in sundry toms and shapes, some round, some long, others oval, representing various shapes and figures but however they were: no man now alive, ever beheld the like before: Therefore may we admire the Handy-works of God, and with the Princely Prophet say, Thy Wonders are in the deep, and thy ways past finding out: this is the Lords doing, and it is marvellous in our Eyes, for sure it is we have great cause to humble our selves befor the eternal of God all the Earth, for his many mercys and peculiar favours he has vouchsafed to express the signal tokens of his Love to us by inverting all the Threatning storms of fate, that hang lowering over our Heads, and turning them upon those, that sought with eagernesse our ruin and destruction.

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